

News Release

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Drought continues but water outlook slightly better than last year

For Immediate Release Boise, Idaho - January 13, 2005 For Media Information Contact: Michael Keckler – (208) 287-4828

Idaho's sixth straight year of drought may become reality but water levels in reservoirs in the eastern part of the state should be somewhat better than last year. That's the conclusion of the Idaho Water Supply Committee, which met Thursday afternoon at The Idaho Water Center.

Overall snow accumulation is about the same as it was at this time last year. The main difference involves soil moisture going into the winter season, which is at its highest levels in 4 years. That helps capture more runoff that might otherwise soak into dry ground.

Idaho is about half way through the heaviest accumulation period. The Water Supply Committee will conduct its next assessment on February 9th, at 1:30pm at the Idaho Water Center.

The Water Supply Committee includes water managers and hydrology experts both from the private and public sector.

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